

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7947

INFO USERDA HQS, WASHDC

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS LISBON 4965

DEPARTMENT PASS EXIM AND COMMERCE FOR MEPD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, BENC, BEXP, ENRG, PO

SUBJ: MAJOR EXPORT PROJECTS: STATUS OF PROPOSED NUCLEAR

POWER PLANT

REF: (A) LISBON 4380 (B) LISBON 4723 NOTAL

EMBASSY OFFICER MET JULY 21 WITH ROCHA CABRAL (NUCLEAR PROJECT HEAD) AND EMILIO ROSA (NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE DIRECTOR) OF ELECTRICIDADE DE PORTUGAL (EDP) - A NEWLY FORMED COMPANY WHICH ENCOMPASSES CONTINENTAL PORTUGAL'S ELECTRICITY PRODUCING AND DISTRIBUTING FIRMS, INCLUDING COMPANHIA PORTUGUESA DE ELECTRICIDADE (CPE) (SEE LISBON 4543 NOTAL). THESE OFFICIALS PROVIDED FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PROJECT:

A. AUTHORIZATION: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RESOLUTION OF APRIL 1976 AUTHORIZED CPE (NOW EDP) TO INITIATE PROCESS FOR NUCLEAR PROJECT, I.E., ARRANGE FOR ENGINEERING STUDIES AND CALL FOR BIDS ON PROJECT COMPONENTS. HOWEVER, GOP STILL MUST GRANT FINAL APPROVAL OF PROJECT. FINAL APPROVAL MAY BE AFFECTED BY FORTHCOMING GOP DECISION ON A GLOBAL ENERGY POLICY, IF THIS POLICY IS FORMULATED BY TIME EDP EVALUATES BIDS AND MAKES ITS RECOMMENDATIONS

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TO GOP (HOPEFULLY IN EARLY 1977).

B. SCHEDULE: SCHEDULE OUTLINED IN REF A HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO SLIP SOMEWHAT. INITIAL LETTERS SOLICITING INTEREST IN BIDDING HAVE BEEN PREPARED, BUT CANNOT BE SENT UNTIL CONCURRENCE OBTAINED FROM INDUSTRIAL POLICY COMMITTEE (COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRIAL ENTITIES). DELAY IN SECURING CONCURRENCE DUE TO "SMALL" DIFFERENCES OF OPINION OVER AMOUNT OF WORK PORTUGUESE CONTRACTORS WILL PERFORM. CABRAL BELIEVES AGREEMENT IMMINENT, AND THAT LETTERS SHOULD BE SENT WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS.

C. NUCLEAR SSS CONTRACT: GE AND WESTINGHOUSE ARE PRIME CONTENDERS. EDP OFFICIALS CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THIS CONTRACT WILL GO TO A FOREIGN FIRM, BUT PORTUGUESE FIRMS EXPECT TO OBTAIN CONSIDERABLE SUBCONTRACTS. ALTHOUGH SOME COMPETITION MAY BE INVOLVED, SUBCONTRACTS ESSENTIALLY WOULD BE PARCELLED OUT TO PORTUGUESE FIRMS.

D. TURBO-GENERATOR CONTRACT: EDP OFFICIALS FEEL THAT NO U.S. FIRMS ARE INTERESTED IN TURBO-GENERATOR COMPONENT OF PROJECT. EDP EXPECTS THIS CONTRACT TO BE AWARDED TO A PORTUGUESE COMPANY, WHICH WOULD TAKE A 60 PER. SEGMENT WHILE FOREIGN PARTNER WOULD GET 40 PER. MAGUE IS A LICENSEE OF BOTH BROWN/BOVERI (SWISS) AND FOSTER/WHEELER (U.S.). SOREFAME IS CLOSELY LINKED WITH ALSTHOM (FRANCE), BUT IS ALSO A LICENSEE OF PARSONS (U.K.). IT HAS WORKED WITH GE IN THE PAST, AND COULD PROBABLY WORK WITH GE OR OTHER COMPANIES. CARLUCCI

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